The Bible & Daily Living

On avoiding sin

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
AVOIDING SINFUL BEHAVIORS
Lesson for May 20, 1984
Bible Study Passage: James 4:1-10, 13-17

INTRODUCTION

Whatever became of sin? So goes the title of a book published a few years ago. The word sin is not a popular one in modern parlance. In some circles sin is an antiquated term for describing idiosyncrasies and character disorders. The subject of sin causes many people to feel uneasy.

James wrote to the church in order to challenge the people to avoid sinful behaviors. It seems that the church was divided and corrupted. James challenged his readers to live responsibly before God.

Church divisions seem to be common in our society. The one place that teaches and preaches peace and love is sometimes the place of disharmony and bitterness. If you've ever been involved in a quarrel within a church you can appreciate chapter four of James. Such quarrels may last a lifetime and create an atmosphere of mistrust.

The people of a church are supposed to live and work together as the body of Christ. The body of Christ are called to embrace one another and in turn embrace the community with ministries of love.

COVETOUSNESS AND WORLDLINESS [James 4:1-4]

Covetousness is the desire to have what everyone else has. The spirit of covetousness strives to accumulate the heart's desires at the expense of others. This kind of "spirit" is a violation of others and our relationship to God.

King David is a glaring example of how covetousness may destroy relationships. David's fling with Bathsheba is told in a three act drama. He saw. He desired. He took. David allowed his fantasy to run wild, in which he ended up having Bathsheba's husband killed in order to cover his sinful tracks.

James is concerned about the "wars and fightings" among the people. His conclusion is that outer wars are reflective of inner lusts and covetousness. James is talking about people with divided loyalties.

James refers to these warring members as "adulters and adulteresses." He is describing people who have incompatible commitments.

FALSE PRIDE [James 4:5-10]

What James is basically saying in verses 5-10 is this: "You do your part and God will do his." Pride is a giant that keeps us bound to thinking we can live self-sufficiently in this world. In our proud boastings we inwardly and outwardly proclaim that we really do not need God's help. Only when we have exhausted our resources or when clinging to the "end of our rope" do we nod in God's direction.

James argues for humility as a means of standing tall before God and the world. Submission (verse 7) prayful repentance (verse 8) and sorrow for one's sinful behavior are the hallmarks of mature faith.

ASSUMPTION AND PRESUMPTION [James 4:13-17]

Jewish law did not prohibit a person from talking down to another, but the New Testament surely does. James blasted the merchants who practiced a type of capitalism that did not take into account the needs of others.

The Greeks had a saying: "If the gods smile on us we will do such and such." In verse 15 James Christianizes the saying to talk about God's will. He points out that it is a sin to make plans and leave God out. When we leave God out of our plans we sabotage ourselves and set the stage for a journey of suffering.

Throughout chapter four James is impressing the importance of placing all of life in the context of faith in Jesus Christ. Consider the following questions:

1. Has the term sin lost its punch for you?

2. Read verse 17 and comment on what that means.

3. List the types of sins James talks about in Chapter 4

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP).

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Gospel sing scheduled

The Clearview Baptist Church, of Rustburg will sponsor a Gospel sing, this Friday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m. Featured will be The Singing Greenes from Boone, North Carolinia. The gospel sing will take place at the Rustburg Middle School at Rustburg. There is no admission charge, but a love offering will be taken to benefit Community Lifeline Ministries. Everyone is invited to attend.

Times-Virginian

WORSHIP

'Family Day' slated

The Eighth Annual Family Day Celebration will be held at Springfield Baptist Church of Appomattox, Sunday May 27, 1984.

Morning service will begin at 11:00 a.m. and after noon service will begin at 2:15 p.m.

The Rev. Franklin Blackman, choir and congregation of Baltimore, Md. will be in charge of the services. Dinner will be served by the ladies of the church.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Zion honors moms

A Mother's Day program was offered by the ladies' aid group at Zion Baptist Church Sunday. Mrs. Magnolia Franklin and Mrs. Beatrice served as mistresses of the ceremony.

The program featured songs by five different gospel groups.

The regular preaching service will be held at Zion Baptist Church this Sunday at 11 a.m. Bible and prayer services are held at the church each Thursday night.

Deacon Robert Jones has been moved to the nursing home is Spout Spring. On the sick list this week are Mr. Haywood Durphy and Mrs. Bessie Coles. Our other sick are improving slowly.

Please pray for the sick and shut-in everywhere.

Galilee Church news

Blessed is everyone that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways, Psalm 128:1

It is our wish that everyone had a happy Mother's Day.

We welcome you all to our regular worship service at Galilee this coming Sunday. The Rev. Raymond Turner will be the guest minister in the absence of Pastor Davis. The Youth Singers will render music. Church school begins at 9:45 a.m. and morning worship at 11 a.m.

At 3 p.m., The Men's Club of Galilee will celebrate its 33rd anniversary. The Rev. Samuel Terry and Men's Chorus from Free Spring Baptist Church will be special guests.

Ms. Frances Langhorne of Baltimore, Md. has been vacationing in Appomattox visiting relatives and friends. Ms. Langhorne was guest in the home of Mrs. Helen Stephens.

Members of the Austin family who visited in Appomattox were Mrs. Louise Davis, Mrs. Mary Nelson and Mrs. Patricia Jordan of Baltimore and Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Walker of New York. The family attended the graduation exercises of Mr. John Nathaniel Austin, son of Mrs. Louise Davis, who received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Mr. John Pierce James, son of Mrs. G.L. James, received his BS degree from Virginia Union University during their recent commencement exercises.

The Rev. Tim Lawing and the First Baptist Senior Choir will be guest at the Canaan Baptist Church on the third Sunday at 3 p.m. Canaan will be celebrating their Ladies Day.

Let us continue in prayer for the sick and shut-in all over the world.

As we begin new efforts to bring God's kingdom on earth let us develop the spirit of working together.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Chilton, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Fleshman, Sr., Mrs. Annie Hambles, Mr. William B. Turner, Jr., and Rev. Tim Lawing attended the fifth district voters league meeting in South Boston this past Saturday.

Have a pleasant week and may God continue to smile on us all. Love from Galilee.

New pastor arrives

The Appomattox Courthouse Presbyterian Church of Appomattox and Walkers Presbyterian Church of Pamplin welcome their new minister, the Rev. Jim Ferry, his wife, Janice and their two children, Emi and Mary Ellen.

The Rev. Ferry and his family spent several years in Kyato, Japan, where he served as associate paster in two Japanese churches.

He has a AB Degree from William and Mary, Doctor of Ministry from Union Theological Seminary, and Master of Arts in Religious Education from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education.

THE REV. JIM FERRY is shown with his wife Janice and their two children, Emi and Mary Ellen.

Revival set at Mt. Comfort

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church plans Revival Services for the week of May 20-25, beginning on Sunday morning at 11 a.m. and continuing each evening at 8 p.m. through Friday evening. On Sunday a picnic dinner will follow the worship hour.

The series of services in keeping with the Methodist bicentennial theme, "Two Centuries of Proclaiming the Gospel" will have former pastors and a local pastor speaking each evening and for the morning service.

The Rev. James Becker, of Covenant Memorial United Methodist Church in Chesapeake will speak on Sunday morning on "In The Beginning".

The Fellowship Four and Jackie will present a musical program at 10 a.m. Sunday morning preceding the worship hour.

The Rev. Aaron Smith from Memorial United Methodist Church at Virginia Beach will use as his subject on Sunday evening, "Proclaiming".

The Rev. Floyd Wingfield, Sr., retired former pastor of Thaxton will speak on Monday evening using as his subject "Repentence".

The Rev. David Beale of Red Oak Baptist Church will bring the message on Tuesday evening on "The Faith That Unites Us."

The Rev. William Ayers, pastor of Glovier Memorial United Methodist Church will speak Wednesday evening on "Dedication".

The Rev. Thomas Jackson of Marquis Memorial United Methodist Church will use as his subject on Thursday evening, "Redemption".

On Friday evening, the Rev. David Camden, present pastor of the church will conclude the services speaking on "Commitment".

Come and worship with us.

Read The Times-Virginian Every Week

Death Notices

Phillip Anthony Asal

Phillip Anthony Asal, the infant son of Phillip Wayne and Rebecca Johnson Asal of Cumberland died Friday, May 4 in the University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville.

Paternal grandmother is Mrs. Betty Jean Fox of Cumberland and Otis F. Asal of Charleston, West Virginia.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Johnson of Appomattox.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, May 8 at 4 p.m. in Antioch United Methodist Church in Cumberland.

Memorial contributions may be made at the Sovran Bank in Farmville, to the account of Phillip Anthony Asal to help defray the cost of medical expenses.

Mrs. Ida B. Davidson

Mrs. Ida Bomar Davidson, 73, Oakleigh Avenue, Appomattox, died at 1:35 p.m. Tuesday, May 8, 1984, in Virginia Baptist Hospital. She was the wife of James R. (Bob) Davidson.

She was born in Gladys, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jessie T. Bormar. She was a member of Kedron Baptist Church and a retired employee of Appomattox Garment Co.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by one brother, J. James Bomar, Lynchburg; four sisters, Mrs. Louise Page, Lynchburg; Mrs. W.D. Glass, Hopewell, Mrs. Nancy Coffey, California, and Mrs. Gladys Vincencio, Ohio.

Graveside funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday at Hebron Baptist Church cemetery by the Rev. Tommy R. Foy.

Robinson Funeral Home, Appomattox, was in charge of arrangements.

Nellie Dority Harris

Nellie Dority Harris, 73, of Brookneal, died Saturday, April 28, 1984 in MCV Hospital, Richmond.

Born in Wise County Nov. 1, 1910, she was the daughter of the late Robert Morton and Emma Morton. She was the wife of the late Otha E. Harris. She attended West End Baptist Church.

She is survived by five sons, Everette (Buck) Harris, Brookneal, Bobby Harris and Eddie Harris, both of Fayetteville, N.C., William (Billy) Harris, Rustburg, and Otha (Jimmy) Harris, Appomattox; a daughter, Shirley Waller, Brookneal; a brother, Clifton Morton, Brookneal; 25 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Henderson Funeral Home Chapel by the Rev. Larry Martin. Burial followed in Bethel Baptist Church cemetery.

Henderson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Charles Henry Johnson

Charles Henry Johnson, Route 3, Appomattox, passed away Sunday, May 6, in Lynchburg General Hospital.

He was the son of the late Alvin and Georginia Johnson.

He is survived by a devoted cousin, Mrs. Minnie Dade, Gladstone; a nephew, Lionel Hardinson of Washington, D.C.; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Springfield Baptist Church in Appomattox with interment in the church cemetery.

West Funeral Home of Appomattox was in charge of arrangements.

Curtis W. Taylor

Curtis W. Taylor, 72, of Phenix, died Sunday, May 13, 1984.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Alice Taylor; a daughter, Mrs. Marie T. St. John, Phenix; three sons, William C. (Billy) Taylor, Drakes Branch, and James C. (Jimmy) Taylor and Ronald L. (Boone) Taylor, both of Phenix; seven grandchildren; four brothers, Harold Taylor, Windsor, George Taylor of Beallsville, Md., Shelby Taylor, Charlotte Court House, and Lacy Taylor, Prospect; and three sisters, Miss Dorothy Taylor and Miss Eva Taylor, both of Windsor, and Mrs. Gracie T. Church, New Mexico.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Browning Funeral Home, Keysville, with interment in the Centenary Methodist Church cemetery, Madisonville.

REVIVAL SERVICES
EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH
The Rev. Edmond M. Terry, Pastor
May 16 - May 20
7:30 each evening

The Rev. Randy Bridges
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